

H.R. 2846—NATIONAL TESTING

HON. FRANK D. LUCAS

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 1998

Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker. During the first session of the 105th Congress, nearly 300 members of the House rejected the President's federal testing plan as part of the FY 1998 Labor, HHS, and Education Appropriation Act. A compromise was reached that prohibited the President from moving forward with national testing in FY 1998. However, no agreement was reached regarding national testing activities in FY 99 or beyond. Therefore, President Clinton is at it again.

For some reason the Clinton Administration thinks people inside the beltway know what is best for my children and my constituent's children in Western Oklahoma. The Department of Education is moving forward to write a national test to be voluntarily administered to fourth and eighth graders in reading and math respectively. How can a huge bureaucracy such as the Department of Education know how to test the students of Hollis, Oklahoma? Has anyone from the Clinton Administration ever been to Hollis, Oklahoma? Is it appropriate to give fourth and eighth grade students in Boise City, Oklahoma population 1,509 the same national test as the students in Boston, Massachusetts? What is the Clinton Administration hoping to accomplish with the results of these beltway developed tests?

Many questions still need to be answered regarding the manner in which the Administration is moving ahead with test development. During consideration of the FY 98 Labor, HHS, and Education Appropriations Act, I head from hundreds of parents who were irate with the proposal of national testing. Parents, local PTA's, and local school boards know what is best for their local students. Let's support the parents in our districts by voting in support of H.R. 2846 and insuring that Congress will have a voice in developing any sort of voluntary testing. Parents need to know that their children's best interests are being protected.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF JOHN H.
HARLAND CO. IN GURABO, PR

HON. CARLOS A. ROMERO-BARCELÓ

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 1998

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity to call attention to an important American success story. This past December 1997, the John H. Harland Co., headquartered in Atlanta, GA, celebrated the 25th anniversary of its Gurabo, PR, printing plant.

The Gurabo plant opened in 1972. During that quarter of a century, Harland's employees have played a crucial role in helping the company meet the needs of its customers. Today, the 52 employees at the Gurabo facility fill approximately 31,000 check orders each month for customers of financial institutions in Puerto Rico, Antigua, the Virgin Islands, the Dominican Republic, and throughout the Caribbean. The financial institutions represented include

Banco Popular, Banco Santander, Citibank, Scotia Bank of Puerto Rico, and Banco Bilbao Vizcaya.

Based on their experience with Harland's Gurabo facility, many of these financial institutions now also use other Harland products and services, including the company's database marketing software which help them to better understand the needs of their customers. They have served as a fine example of entrepreneurship, demonstrating over the past 25 years their commitment to the development of quality products and services. As the needs of their clients expanded or varied, so did their services.

The John H. Harland Co. was founded in 1923, and is the second largest check printer in the United States. It is also the Nation's leading provider of database marketing to financial institutions. Harland is understandably proud of the Gurabo plant and its employees. And Mr. Speaker, we are proud to have such a good corporate neighbor in our community. John H. Harland Co. has preserved and enhanced a great tradition during its first 25 years in Puerto Rico. I offer my congratulations to the John H. Harland Co. and its employees on the occasion of its 25th anniversary in Puerto Rico. It is my hope that their fine example proves to be a catalyst for other companies to make similar commitments. May the company's endurance and prosperity serve as positive lessons to future generations of Americans.

JENNIFER RODRIGUEZ PARTICIPATION
IN THE WINTER OLYMPICS

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 1998

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today, just one day before the Opening Ceremonies at the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan to congratulate Jennifer Rodriguez, the first Cuban-American to participate in this most important event. Ms. Rodriguez, who will compete in the women's speedskating tournament, also has the distinction of being the first Hispanic athlete and the first Miamian to participate in a Winter Olympics. As a Hispanic, a Cuban-American and a resident of South Florida, I am immensely proud of Ms. Rodriguez great accomplishment.

We are blessed to be the heirs of an extraordinary tradition of athleticism, competition and camaraderie which began over 2,000 years ago in Ancient Greece and lives on in our modern Olympic games. These celebrations bear witness to the best in the human spirit—the Spirit of the Olympiad. As elected officials, we too partake of an arena which itself is marked by conflict. All too often, however, we forget to play fair—the old cliché that it is not just about winning. These games should remind us of the inherent value of sportsmanship.

I salute Ms. Rodriguez for her dedication. Her effort serves as testimony that those virtues the Ancient Greeks so valued are alive and well, so much so that they have driven a young woman from the warm, semi-tropical climate of her native South Florida to the ice-cold weather of Milwaukee where she has

been training rigorously since 1996 for this upcoming event.

Good luck Ms. Rodriguez and best wishes to your family! They, like me, must be very proud.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
RONALD V. DELLUMS

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 1998

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it saddens me today to say goodbye to Congressman RONALD V. DELLUMS of the 9th District of the State of California. He has brought a great conscience to this body during our debates over military spending and the role of the modern U.S. military. He is as thoughtful and passionate on issues to protect the opportunities for children as he is on reducing a massive military budget. Mr. Speaker, on those issues of advocacy of children, he reminds many of a mutual friend of both of ours, Congressman Mickey Leland of Texas.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that Congressman DELLUMS is a staunch opponent of weapons funding, specifically the funding of the B-2 bomber, an issue where he and I have disagreed on sharply. However, as with all his dealings with opponents, I never experienced a slight or an unkind word.

Although he opposes many weapons funding initiatives, he is not an enemy of our military or the ideas of the country it is sworn to protect. Rather, he is outspoken when in times of peace, our military spending takes more importance than feeding our children.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge that Congressman DELLUMS and Congressman Leland lead the effort to end U.S. support for the apartheid regime in South Africa by introducing legislation calling for economic sanctions. Fifteen years later, that legislation passed the House, imposing the sanctions that would eventually lead to the dismantling of apartheid and begin the creation of a new South Africa.

Congressman DELLUMS was born in Oakland, CA, on November 24, 1935. However, he has deep Texas roots. After serving in the U.S. Marine Corps for 2 years, he received an A.A. degree at Oakland City College, A.B.A. from San Francisco State University and his master's in social work from the University of California at Berkeley.

Throughout his career in the Berkeley City Council and Congress, his education background and experience in social work helped draw attention to the plight of the poor and influence the implementation of policies like the National Health Service Act and the Head Start Program.

Mr. Speaker, among all his legislative accomplishments and contributions to this body, all Americans, particularly African-Americans are proud that in 1973 he was the first African-American appointed to the formerly known House Armed Services Committee. He made another historic first in the 103rd Congress, becoming chairman of the committee. As chairman, he articulated a progressive and alternative vision of the military, beginning an honest debate over the possibilities of reinventing our military forces without threatening national security.

Mr. Speaker, ironically, the wars in Vietnam and on the streets of urban ghettos developed his sense of compassion and concern for those who face inequities and discrimination. He could have easily had a bitter soul forged out of the fires from the 1960 riots and battles he knew so well, but he chose to care and use his mind and ability for justice. Therefore, he is a great example to young men and women that the anger and distress known to many of our cities can be directed to solving our country's most pressing social problems.

Mr. Speaker, although many Members of Congress may have disagreed with his stands on military spending and his legal challenges to a President's authority to declare war on countries, no one can dispute that his arguments and debating style were pragmatic, intelligent, and were carried out with respect and dignity toward others, regardless of ideology. Therefore, he was respected in this House by those of all ideologies and political persuasions.

Mr. Speaker, our colleague from California is leaving this body after a long and productive career. While I can say that his return to private life is much deserved, I must say that he will be sorely missed because of his courage, leadership, and compassion. I will miss him as a friend.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 1998

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to return to the House floor last evening due to a scheduling conflict and missed the following vote:

Rollcall vote No. 7, passage of H. J. Res. 107. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

NATIONAL HISTORIC LIGHTHOUSE PRESERVATION ACT

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 1998

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I have introduced H.R. 2970, the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act, which would amend the National Historic Preservation Act, to establish a national historic light station preservation program. This legislation was introduced in the other body by the Chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Senator FRANK MURKOWSKI of Alaska.

As you may know, Mr. Speaker, lighthouses have served as life-saving navigational aids since before the turn of the century. However, many of these lighthouses have outlived their use to the Coast Guard as navigational aids. Thus, the Coast Guard is left with surplus lighthouses, and declares them "excessed." The question then becomes, who cares for these lighthouses once they leave the Coast Guard's hands? If the land on which a particular lighthouse in question was first granted by a Presidential Order to the U.S. Lighthouse Establishment, it is considered to be "public

domain," and has to be first offered through the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to the Interior Department. If the Interior Department does not claim the land, then the lighthouse is placed in the General Service Administration's (GSA) excessing process. If the property is not considered public domain, then the lighthouse is placed directly into the GSA excessing process.

Through the GSA process, priority is first granted to federal agencies. This means that the lighthouse could be used for such things as an office for the Internal Revenue Service. If no federal agency claims it, the property is then surveyed to see if it suitable to qualify under the McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, thereby allowing it to be transferred to those organizations that assist the homeless. Should neither of these categories claim the lighthouse, it is then offered to the state in which it is located, possibly to be used for recreation purposes. If the state not claim it, then it is offered to the local government where the property is located. Finally, if the lighthouse is still available at the end of the GSA process, it is put up for public sale.

The real tragedy here, Mr. Speaker, is that many of these lighthouses have been protected and preserved over the years by non-profit historical lighthouse societies, which have donated a great deal of time, money, and resources to lighthouse preservation efforts. As you can see, in order to have the lighthouses conveyed to them, they must wait through the long process described above, and then must bid on them. This process basically requires these non-profit organizations to compete financially with private groups that have greater access to funds, and that have, in many cases, not made the same commitment to the lighthouse in the past. In addition, these private groups may have plans for the lighthouse that are inconsistent with the best interests of the community. Though these non-profit groups can, in some specific cases, purchase the light house directly from the BLM, they sometimes have to pay as much as half of its market value—a value that those particular groups helped to increase over the years through their hard work. Thus, the message we are sending here is that if you're going to provide a public service by preserving historical sites, you're going to have to pay for them in the end.

I should point out that another method for conveyance is for Congress to enact separate pieces of legislation to transfer a lighthouse to a specific group. As you know, this process can be very time consuming and cumbersome considering that there are hundreds of lighthouses that will be excessed in the near future.

My legislation would introduce a degree of fairness to the conveyance process for historic lighthouses by amending the National Historic Preservation Act to transfer this process to the National Parks Service, which would be able to work in conjunction with the State Historic Preservation Officer, to establish a national historical light station program. This new program would have priority to those government agencies that have entered into a partnership agreement with a non-profit organization whose primary mission is historical preservation of lighthouses, and would convey them at no cost. If no such applications are offered, or approved of, then the lighthouse would be put up for public sale. Thus, this legislation would

help to ensure that in those cases where a non-profit group has been active in a particular lighthouses' preservation, and wishes to continue in it's work, that that group would be given a fair shot at claiming that lighthouse when the Coast Guard declares it excessed.

Mr. Speaker, we need to recognize the very important role lighthouses have played in this country's history. By encouraging government agencies to join with non-profit groups to help preserve lighthouses for the future, we will be providing a much fairer process to those who wish to continue their work in preserving these nationally historic structures.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE RONALD V. DELLUMS

SPEECH OF

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 1998

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, we are here to celebrate the career of a champion of Democratic principles in the House of Representatives. I am honored to have served with my friend, RON DELLUMS.

For over a quarter of a century, I have had the distinct privilege of joining RON in the good fight. He vehemently opposed our government's involvement in Vietnam. He asked the tough questions and pursued the truth in the crime of Watergate. He demanded quality for women and minorities and defended civil rights. He did not waver in the charge to stop the testing of nuclear weapons. He fought for the poor, the disabled, and the disadvantaged, in the hope that all Americans could partake in our country's bounty.

His focus, above all, was to promote peace. His work on the National Security Committee earned him the respect of all his colleagues for his grasp of issues, his focus and his powerful oratory skills. He worked for decades to expose unnecessary military spending and cut defense spending. He came here to make things better for all Americans and he succeeded.

Mr. Speaker, I stood with RON DELLUMS for close to three decades; I am saddened to see him go but I know he will make a difference for the better wherever he goes.

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING FAIRNESS ACT OF 1998

HON. RICHARD H. BAKER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 1998

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill that will serve as a legislative remedy to a flaw in the private sector process for developing financial accounting standards. Specifically, the Financial Accounting Fairness Act (FAFA) will provide for judicial review of accounting principles that the Financial Accounting Standards Board has developed and the Securities and Exchange Commission has approved. In short, public companies will not be able to do what they currently cannot: have their complaints with the substance of a proposed accounting principle aired in the neutral